

**Services for Young People
Youth Connexions Hertfordshire
Briefing for County & District Members in Dacorum
Winter 2013**



Welcome to the Dacorum termly briefing on the work of Youth Connexions for County and District Councillors. The following provides a brief summary of our recent and forthcoming priorities; please don't hesitate to contact me for further details.

Youth Connexions provides information, advice, guidance, support and youth work for young people aged 13 – 19 (up to 25 for those who have learning difficulties and / or disabilities).

Youth Projects

As well as our established projects in Bennetts End, Markyate and Tring. We now run evening youth projects in three adventure playgrounds: Adeyfield, Chaulden and Grovehill.

In Bennetts End we are now offering young people the chance to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. The project works in partnership with the secondary schools. We are able to loan young people a lot of the essential equipment needed for their expeditions which means that none of the young people are excluded from working towards this valuable award because of lack of funds.

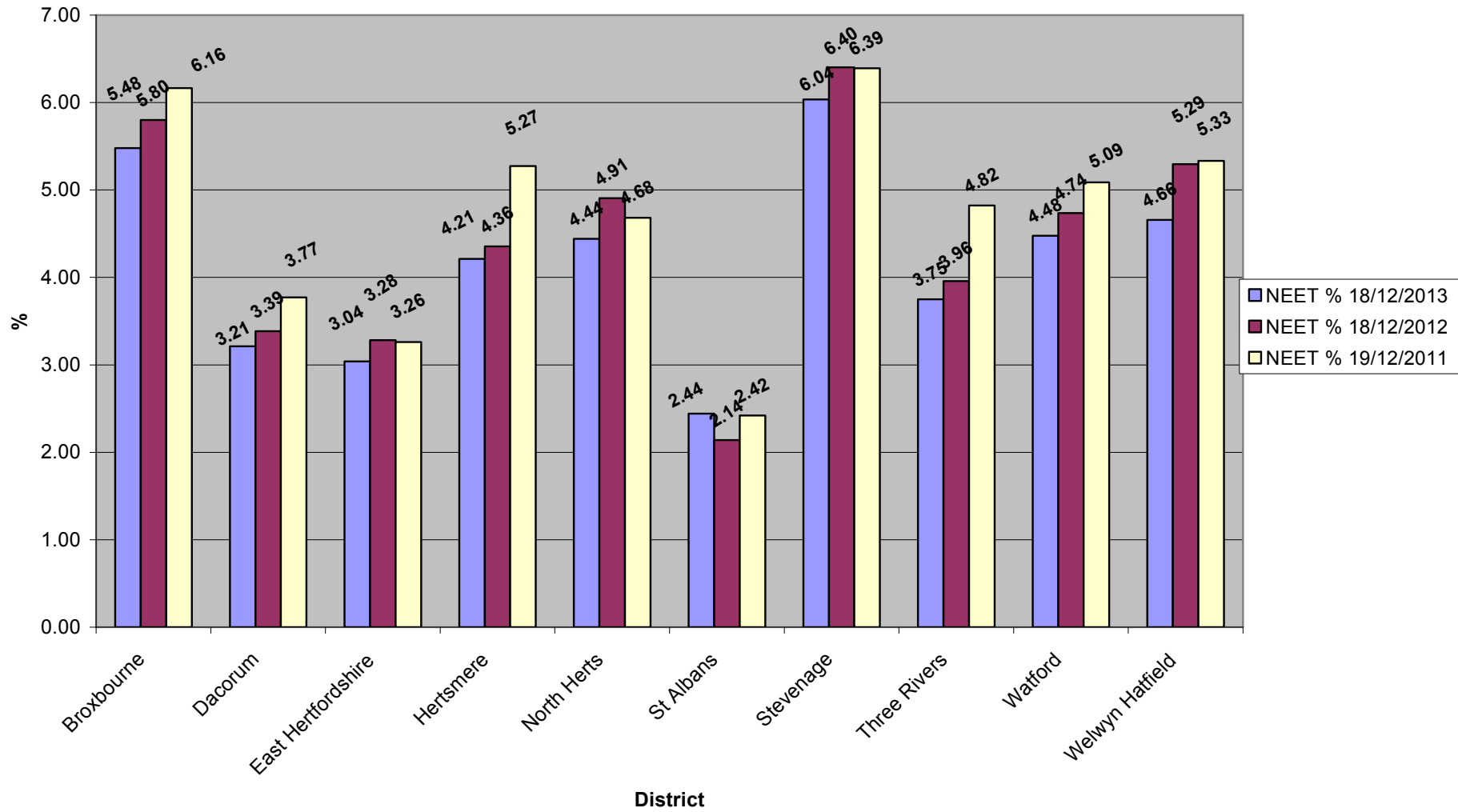
Another exciting development is the formation of the new Dacorum Youth Development Council, which will include young people from faith and BME groups, young carers, young people with special needs and young people leaving care. The aim of the DYDC is to empower and enable young people to have a "voice" and represent the views of their peers locally and at a county level by linking to the 1125 county group.

The Music Studio and the Media Suite in the XC Centre have started delivering four weeks accredited courses (Film It, Lay It and Spin It projects) which gives an insight into music making, film making and editing, mixing and DJ-ing. All the courses are run by youth workers and professional technicians.

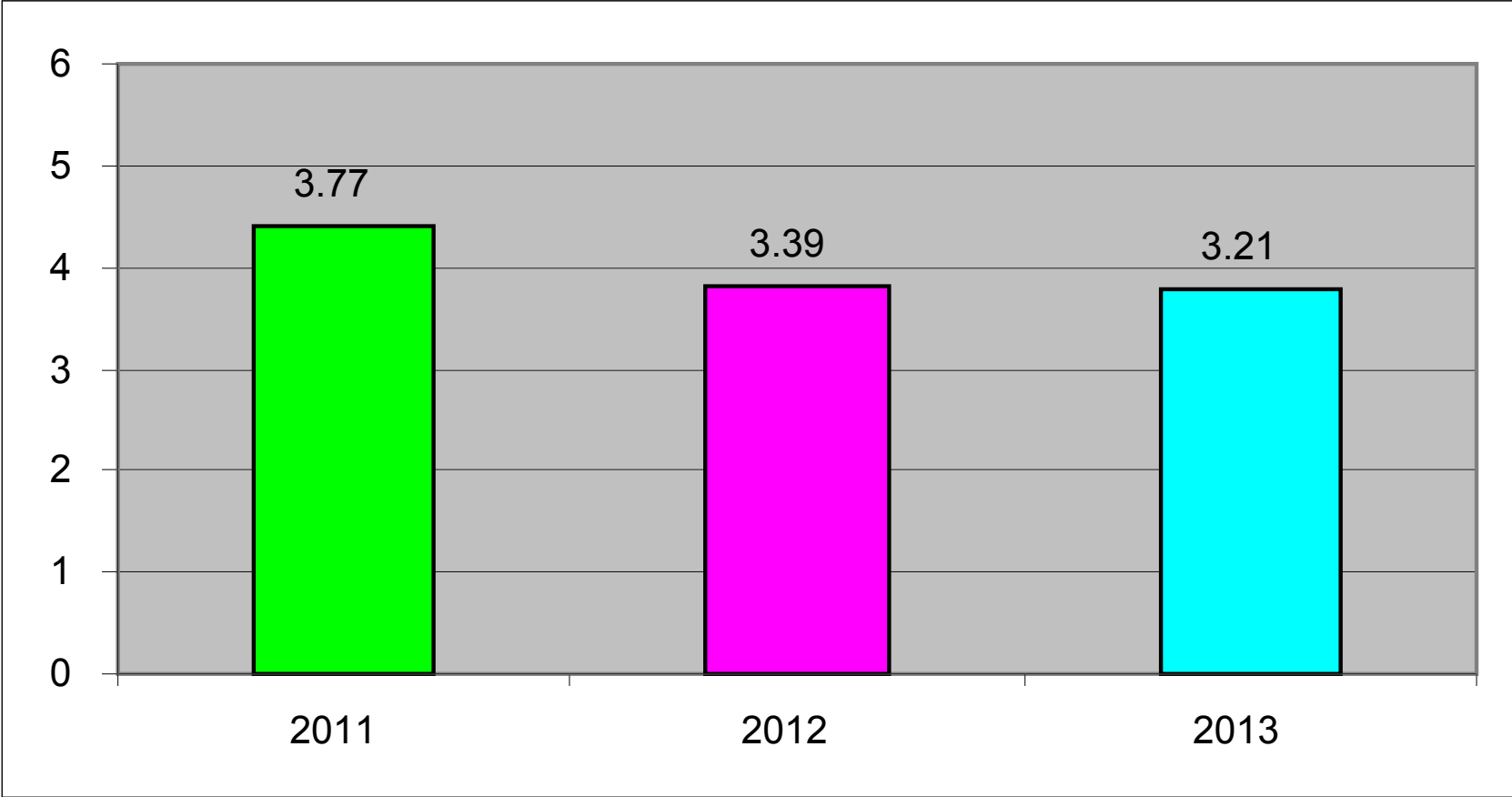
Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

At present in Dacorum there are 151 young people who are not in education, employment or training (from a cohort of 4816). The IAG team continues to make regular contact with each of these young people through fortnightly follow ups, targeting localities/wards, delivering drop in sessions and job clubs at the XC Centre. This support now also includes identifying those young people who are eligible for the 'Youth Contract' – which enables them to get extra intensive support to help them to achieve sustained progression into education, employment and training.

16-18 NEET% 2011-2012-2013



DATA & INFORMATION Comparison of date of NEETS in the last 3 years Countywide & Dacorum



Highest Number of NEETS by Ward

Leverstock Green	10 Young People
Adeyfield	14 Young People
Berkhamsted	06 Young People
Grovehill	10 Young People
Bennetts End	05 Young People
Chaulden & Shrubhill	07 Young People
Highfield & St Pauls	10 Young People
Woodhall Farm	09 Young People
Tring	08 Young People
Boxmoor	04 Young People

Sectors of Interest to the Young People

Construction	23 Young People
Retail	22 Young People
Office/Admin	18 Young People
Care	11 Young People
Hospitality & Catering	10 Young People
Vehicle Technician	9 Young People
IT	5 Young People

Work with Young Parents

Since April 2013 we have been delivering a new programme to inspire and support young parents and parents-to-be. "Plus One" is a 10 week course for 16–18 year olds which will help them achieve a happy and healthy transition to parenthood, whilst fulfilling their own potential. (Places are also available for 19-24 year olds who have a learning difficulty or disability.)

The course consists of workshops, team and problem solving challenges, guest speakers and a host of fun and interactive activities to help the young people develop valuable skills for the future. The group is making excellent progress and the individuals have already grown in confidence. They are spending time planning for how they can progress into further education, training or employment whilst managing the new challenge of being a parent.

As part of the programme they will also have the opportunity to undertake projects in the local community – making a difference in their own way. The group is currently finalising their ideas and looking forward to delivering their projects. On completion of the course they will receive a nationally recognised City and Guilds qualification.

The National Citizen Service

NCS is a flagship Government Programme focused on helping 16 & 17 year olds build skills for work and life engaging them in their local community. The exciting, fun, interactive programme outdoors, indoors and residential's will take place in February.

We are delighted to announce that we have 40 places available.

For more information please contact the team on 01442 454060.

Partnership

Youth Connexions have established a very positive joint partnership working group in Dacorum. We work very closely with Dacorum Borough Council, Jobcentre Plus, Schools and Training Providers. The “Youth Employment Training Initiative” process and Partnership working allows for better intelligence and we all have a better understanding of what everyone does and also what everyone can contribute to the local community. We can approach local needs in a more co-ordinated way which prevents duplication and is therefore value for money

The Partnership organised a very successful Careers Event lead by Youth Connexions, which was held at Southhill Centre for year 10 and upwards. 34 employers and over 500 students attended. The feedback from the student, parents, carers and employers was very positive.

Excellent organisation and location-well planned and lots of enquiries to direct to our info sessions at college – West Herts College

Good leads and networking – Hospitality & Retail Recruitment

Lots of interest. As always, a well organised and well attended event. God work! – Haydon Training

Very well organised – thanks for inviting us – Herts Fire & Rescue

‘People were helpful and gave good advice’ – Young Person

All our questions were answered. The staff were very polite and informative. Excellent evening’ – Parents

‘Has helped me decide what I would like to do’ – Young Person

New Developments

Youth Connexions will continue to hold regular events in the Marlowes shopping centre due to the positive response from young people that were seen and informed of what was available to them and how the service could support them.

Mohamed Fawzi
Youth Connexions Team Manager
Dacorum & St Albans District

For further information please contact me on 07810 856535 or mohamed.fawzi@hertfordshire.gov.uk

You can see details of all current projects at <http://www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org/cms.php?pageid=935> and <http://www.channelmogo.org>

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